EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the

changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be

filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an

amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview

with attorney of record Jensen Shane (Reg. No 55,301) on July 15, 2010.

3.   The application has been amended as follows:

a) In the Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method that is suitable for use in connection
with a multi-protocol communications analyzer, and the method
comprising:

        identifying by a multi-protocol communications analyzer ports of the
multi-protocol communications analyzer;

        determining whether one or more of the identified ports are
available;

        using at least one of any available ports to at least partially define a
domain; [[and]]

        configuring at least one port of any domain that was defined in
connection with an available port;[[,]] and

        modifying any domain that was at least partially defined in
connection with an available port;

        wherein the domain is defined such that ports included in the
domain appear to share, from a first user perspective, a trigger line
and[[/or]] a common clock;

wherein modifying any domain that was at least partially defined in connection with an available port comprises changing the number of ports associated with the domain;

wherein at least a portion of the method is performed by way of a graphical user interface.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method for defining a domain in a multi-protocol communications analyzer, and the method comprising:

identifying by a multi-protocol communications analyzer ports of link analyzers in the multi-protocol communications analyzer;

determining whether one or more of the identified ports are available;

using at least one of any available ports to at least partially define a domain; and

configuring at least one port of any domain that was defined in connection with an available port,

wherein a first one of the link analyzers in the multi-protocol communications analyzer is configured for use with a data stream corresponding to a first communication protocol and a second one of the link analyzers is configured for use with a data stream corresponding to a second communication protocol;

wherein the first link analyzer is configured to propagate a trigger and clock signal that is received by the first link analyzer to the second link analyzer;

wherein at least a portion of the method is performed by way of a graphical user interface.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim [[36]] 35, wherein the first link analyzer is further configured to propagate the trigger and[[/or]] clock signal to a third one of the link analyzers.

38. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the first, second, and third link analyzers are arranged such that the trigger and[[/or]] clock signal is propagated serially to the second and third link analyzers.

39. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the first, second, and third link analyzers are arranged such that the trigger and[[/or]] clock signal is propagated in parallel to the second and third link analyzers.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 3, 6-14, 33-35 and 37-41 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The examiner had found that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest or render obvious "modifying any domain that was at least partially defined in connection with an available port; wherein the domain is defined such that ports included in the domain appear to share, from a first user perspective, a trigger line and a common clock; wherein modifying any domain that was at least partially defined in connection with an available port comprises changing the number of ports associated with the domain; wherein at least a portion of the method is performed by way

of a graphical user interface" as in claims 1, 3, 6-14, 33-35 and 37-41.
Therefore, the prior art of record alone or in combination do not teach the
incorporated limitations taken in context of the claims

5.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be
submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid
processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such
submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of
Reasons for Allowance or Examiner Amendment."

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier
communications from the examiner should be directed to Faruk Hamza
whose telephone number is 571-272-7969. The examiner can normally be
reached on Monday through Friday.

          If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful,
the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached at 571-272-4006.
The fax phone number for the organization where this application or
proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

          Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained
from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status
information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR
only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-
direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private
PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-

9197 (toll -free).

Faruk Hamza

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unite 2455

/Faruk Hamza/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2455